

July 9th, 2025

25-28

To: Urgent Primary Care and Primary Care Clinics
From: Microbiology Working Group, Dr. Amanda Wilmer, Medical Director Microbiology
 Melinda Carrier, Health Services Director

Re: New Molecular Assay for Measles




On July 14th, 2025, Interior Health will introduce measles testing on nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs, throat swabs and urine samples using a new molecular assay at the Kelowna General Hospital (KGH) microbiology lab.

Important Information

For diagnosis of acute measles infection, a respiratory specimen (eg: nasopharyngeal **OR** throat swab) **AND** urine should be collected for molecular testing at KGH.

Collection and Ordering Information:

- Please refer to the [Microbiology Test Menu](http://www.interiorhealth.ca) at www.interiorhealth.ca > Information For> Medical Staff> Clinical Tools & Resources> Laboratory Services Guide> Microbiology for complete information on measles specimen collection.
- Airborne, Droplet & Contact Precautions** are required when collecting measles specimens

| Specimen type | Collection Container |
|---|--|
| REQUIRED , one of either: Nasopharyngeal swab |  |
| OR | Red-top Copan UTM for NP swab |
| Throat swab |  |
| | Blue-top Copan UTM for throat swab |
| REQUIRED: Urine |  |
| | Sterile container for urine |

- Submit an IH Laboratory Requisition with the specimens and indicate specimen source and “Measles PCR” in the “OTHER TESTS” section. Example:

| OTHER TESTS – Standing Orders Include expiry & frequency |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ECG |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FIT (Age 50-74 asymptomatic q2y) Copy to Colon Screening Program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FIT No copy to Colon Screening Program |
| Urine - Measles PCR |
| Throat swab - Measles PCR |

Action Required

- Refrigerate samples for measles testing and submit to your local IH laboratory as soon as possible after collection
- Use **Airborne, Droplet & Contact Precautions** when collecting measles specimens